

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

The Report of the Secretary of the Navy, Report of the Secretary of the Interior, and the Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, will be found on the Second Page.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The Annual Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office embodies a large mass of valuable statistics relating to land in the United States. The area of these lands embraces at present no less than 1,400,428,000 acres, with sea coasts on the Atlantic, the Gulf, Pacific, and Puget Sound, equal to 5,150 miles. The aggregate area surveyed in all the states and Territories is 1,074,000,000 acres, or 60,000,000 more than the total area—sores; the average in miles, which has been run and marked on the entire circumference in establishing these surveys, being 785,200. For the past fiscal year the same lands had a quantity of 1,000,000,000 acres for railroad grants and agricultural purposes, equal to 4,020,312.87 acres, and the cash receipts to the same period amounted to \$6,600. The quantity surveyed on June 30, 1865, is equal to 5,150 miles of coast, or nearly the entire coast of the United States. These lands have been granted for military service and internal improvement, there have been granted for schools, seminaries of learning, universities, and agricultural and mechanical colleges, 21,640,000 acres, while the estimates and actual grants made to date, it is estimated, exceed the sum of \$1,000,000,000. The report shows a general increase in the amount of land surveyed each year since 1860 to the present vast quantity stated above, which is nearly seven times their area at the close of the last century.

LANDS FOR SETTLEMENTS AND NATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS.

One of the most pleasing sources presented in the Annual Report is the fact that the policy of the disposing of the public lands for actual settlement, rather than putting them up to competition for direct revenue. The report says:

"The principle has been recognized as a controlling element in the policy of distinguished statesmen of our country. President Jackson having pointedly recommended the same, which is now in full operation, while our land legislation at the same time goes also to every citizen the means of acquiring ownership of the public lands, and the various acts, under the various concessions, military, educational, and for internal improvement. Although, therefore, the cash receipts last year and for several years past are in but limited proportion to the amount received from the sale of lands, the number of new agricultural establishments to the existing number, the grand aggregate of which, in the whole of the republic, being estimated at 2,450,000 acres under cultivation.

In view of the facilities afforded by the act for actual settlement of the public lands for promoting public education, the construction of roads, and the works of improvement for the general benefit, it is very timely remanded.

The people of the United States are in the realization of the value of the public lands, and the public lands of the states, Mr. Chevalier, that equally mean "the benefit of instruction enjoyed by all, the diffusion of intelligence to the profit of all, the great facilities given to labor by ways of communication, and to agriculture, and to the arts and sciences, and forming a great progress pursued in the interest of all, in science in general and individual morality, in collective and individual wealth," associated with a policy which "encourages labor, assists it and makes it participate in every distribution, secures the right of inheritance, and makes use of it to disseminate upon the surface of the earth."

COAL LANDS.

With reference to the coal lands, the Report informs us that, in pursuance of the Act of July 1, 1861, "for the disposal of coal lands and town property in the public domain," surveys have been made of the coal lands in the states, and the surveyors were instructed to institute proper inquiries as to the mineral character of the lands in their respective districts, to ascertain what tracts come within the meaning of the term, and to make a report to the Surveyor General of the United States.

The information gathered by the surveyors is as follows: In the various concessions, military, educational, and for internal improvement, there have been granted for schools, seminaries of learning, universities, and agricultural and mechanical colleges, 21,640,000 acres, while the estimates and actual grants made to date, it is estimated, exceed the sum of \$1,000,000,000.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE SOUTH. D. L. SHELTON TO GEN. GRANT.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, Oct. 30, 1866.

Incident to relieve the people from all unnecessary restraint incident to martial law, I directed, on the 4th instant, that the martial law should be suspended in the state of South Carolina, and that the informer could be held to the quantum of land embracing coal beds or coal fields in the respective land districts but that the same may be occupied which might ultimately develop a general system of agriculture.

The method of planting and rearing, as is reduced to a series of rules of conduct, has adapted to different species having been ascertained. It is known that the pine and fir trees are generally grown on sandy, shallow surface soil; other trees are natives of swampy soil, while the oak, beech, and chestnut, which are found in the eastern portion of the state, are natives of upland soil.

On the 2d instant, the state of South Carolina, covering large portions of the States of Iowa and Missouri, the west of the Mississippi, and Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and other States on the east of the river, and appearing in numerous traces in the western portion of the Nosses, the Neches, the Arkansas, and Canadian Rivers.

Beyond the plains along the base of the Rocky Mountains, and extending from the northern limits of New Mexico, through Colorado, and north of it to the Canada line, passing through the state of Wyoming, and the territories of Montana, and the United States, containing many varieties of growth coal, not only for the ordinary purposes of fuel, but much of it excellent for steam navigation purposes.

OTHER METALS.

Intercepted with the valuable deposites of most of the other metals found upon the surface of the earth, the wealth and prosperity of a nation measurably depend. The precious metals are deposited in three broad fields, stretching across the United States, and known as the "Appalachian Gold Field," traversing the central part of the Union, as far as the Alleghany mountains, and supporting Virginia and North Carolina, the other as the "Rocky Mountain Gold Field," traversing all the more recently organized Territories of the United States, and the third in the Western Territories. The first, however, is the country bordering on the Pacific Iron, at the same time the most generally distributed through the public lands of the States, and it has been estimated that there is iron ore enough in Mississippi alone to supply a million tons per annum of manufactured iron for the use of the world for centuries to come.

The second field, and the one which is the most abundant, is in the Territories of Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon, and the third, which is the least abundant, is in Nevada, California, and New Mexico, and Arizona.

The metals most abundant in California are gold, silver, and copper.

Gold is found in the state of California, and is estimated to be over \$1,000,000,000 worth, and the development of it is now in progress.

Silver is found in Nevada, and Arizona.

Copper is found in California, and Arizona.

Gold, silver, and copper are the principal metals found in Nevada.

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